

DoD Establishes Additional Sexual Assault Hot Line

The Department of Defense announced in March that an additional toll-free telephone number has been established for individuals who want to contact or provide information to the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault. The number, (800) 497-6261, is staffed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. The department's hot line will supplement those previously established by each of the services.




Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld ordered a senior-level inquiry in March into the reported sexual assaults in Iraq and Kuwait, and how the armed services treat victims of sexual assault. The Army and Air Force opened similar investigations.

"Every service member deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity," Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu said. "Sexual assault is criminal conduct and will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense."

Chu believes the information from the call center will assist the task force and defense officials in developing policies and programs to improve assistance for victims of assaults and enhance efforts at prevention.

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